

THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

*EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF IDAHO
BOISE*

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2001-01

AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUATION OF THE IDAHO RURAL PARTNERSHIP REPEALING AND REPLACING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 97-02

WHEREAS, Idaho is among the most rural states in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's tremendous geography and sparse population create problems of distance and isolation; and

WHEREAS, the most rural counties in Idaho consistently have lower per capita incomes, higher unemployment rates, lower rates of population growth, higher poverty levels, and less new construction and job growth; and

WHEREAS, the most rural residents of Idaho have less access to health care services, employment training, business assistance, library service, and diverse educational and cultural opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the most rural communities have disproportionately large infrastructure needs for transportation, utility services, and education; and

WHEREAS, the multitude of public and private organizations with an interest in helping rural Idaho need a mechanism for coordination and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, five key areas of need are increased leadership and governance, provision of telecommunication and broad bandwidth to rural communities, the need for excellent and relevant education and work development at all levels, funding for development, maintenance, and improvement of rural infrastructure development, and the development of active local economic development teams;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DIRK KEMPTHORNE, Governor of the State of Idaho, by the authority vested in me by law, do hereby authorize the continuation of the Idaho Rural Partnership.

The Rural Partnership's responsibilities will be:

- 1. To identify organizations, authorities, and resources to address various aspects of rural development;*
- 2. To serve as a clearinghouse of information and as a referral center on rural problems, programs, and policies;*
- 3. To serve as a nonpartisan forum for identifying and understanding rural issues from all perspectives;*
- 4. To assess conditions in rural Idaho and to set goals and specific objectives for improving the quality of life in rural Idaho;*
- 5. To identify collaborative strategies toward meeting these goals and to facilitate the implementation of these strategies by the Partnership's member organizations;*
- 6. To develop better intergovernmental and private/public coordination and to seek out opportunities for new partnerships to achieve rural development goals within the existing structure;*

7. *To identify and seek solutions to unnecessary impediments to rural development, first within Idaho and then through the National Rural Development Partnership; and*
8. *To work cooperatively with the National Rural Development Partnership and other state rural development councils.*

The Idaho Rural Partnership is a joint effort between local, tribal, state, and federal governments, as well as the profit and not-for-profit private sectors. Its purpose is to foster coordinated approaches to rural development that support local initiatives, not to usurp the individual missions of any of its member organizations or duplicate effort.

Membership shall include representation from the following state entities:

1. *Executive Office of the Governor*
2. *Idaho Legislature (4)*
3. *Department of Commerce*
4. *Department of Agriculture*
5. *Department of Labor*
6. *Department of Health and Welfare*
7. *Department of Environmental Quality*
8. *Department of Parks and Recreation*
9. *Idaho Transportation Department*
10. *Department of Lands*
11. *Department of Water Resources*
12. *Division of Professional and Technical Education*
13. *Commission on the Arts*
14. *Small Business Development Centers*
15. *State Library*
16. *Public Utilities Commission*

A representative of each of the five tribal governments of Idaho shall be invited to participate:

1. *Kootenai Tribe*
2. *Coeur d'Alene Tribe*
3. *Nez Perce Tribe*
4. *Shoshone-Paiute Tribes*
5. *Shoshone-Bannock Tribes*

A representative from each of the following local government organizations shall be invited to participate:

1. *Association of Idaho Cities*
2. *Idaho Association of Counties*
3. *Regional planning or economic development districts*
4. *Resource Conservation and Development Districts (RC&Ds)*
5. *Health Districts*

Representatives from private and not-for-profit organizations with an interest in the well-being of rural Idaho, including but not limited to the following organizations, shall be invited to participate:

1. *Private and cooperative utilities*
2. *Banks and financial institutions*
3. *Health care providers*
4. *Idaho Rural Health Education Center*
5. *Idaho Migrant Council*
6. *Agricultural and industry organizations*
7. *Environmental organizations*

Representatives and members of the following federal entities shall be invited to join the Partnership and to participate:

- 1. Senators (2)*
- 2. Congressmen (2)*
- 3. USDA Rural Development*
- 4. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service*
- 5. USDA Farm Services Agency*
- 6. Idaho Cooperative Extension System*
- 7. USDA Forest Service*
- 8. Bureau of Land Management*
- 9. Bureau of Reclamation*
- 10. Small Business Administration*
- 11. Economic Development Administration*
- 12. Department of Housing and Urban Development*
- 13. Veterans Affairs*
- 14. Department of Energy*

Additional Members may be added by consensus of the Partnership.

The Partnership shall meet no less than quarterly. The Partnership shall elect officers and a Board of Directors representing federal, state, local, and tribal governments and the private sector. This Board shall set operating policies and manage the Partnership budget and staff. The Partnership shall submit a report of its activities to the Governor and the Legislature annually.

This Executive Order repeals and replaces Executive Order No. 97-02.

This Executive Order shall cease to be effective four years after its entry into force.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on the twenty-second day of February in the year of our Lord two-thousand and one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred twenty-fifth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred eleventh.

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
GOVERNOR

PETE T. CENARRUSA
SECRETARY OF STATE